



NEWS RELEASE

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**FELON SENTENCED TO 95 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR
UNLAWFULLY POSSESSING FIREARMS**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, February 13, 2009, that Aaron Tolen, a resident of Wasilla, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 95 months' imprisonment for being a felon in possession of firearms.

United States District Court Judge Ralph Beistline imposed the sentence on Tolen, who is 26 years old. Judge Beistline specified that the nearly eight-year federal sentence will run consecutive to the seven-year state sentence that Tolen is currently serving for a series of burglaries. Following completion of his imprisonment, Tolen will be on federal supervised release for three years.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Kimberly Sayers-Fay, on October 31, 2007, Troopers contacted Tolen and Michael Wilson at a Talkeetna bar. Troopers questioned the two men after learning that they had arrived at the bar in a truck that had been used that night in an armed robbery of trick-or-treaters.

Troopers detained both Tolen and Wilson because their responses to questions suggested knowledge of the robbery, and because Troopers correctly believed that Tolen was lying about his identity. During a subsequent pat-down, Troopers discovered that Tolen was carrying a loaded handgun under his armpit. After Troopers learned Tolen's true name, they learned that he was a convicted felon, and thus could not legally possess firearms or ammunition.

In considering Tolen's 95-month federal sentence, the court took into account the loaded gun he had concealed on his person, twelve more guns that were found in the truck Tolen and Wilson were using, and the fact that once in jail, Tolen encouraged his girlfriend to eliminate that gun evidence.

Mr. Cohen commends the Alaska State Troopers and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for the investigation that lead to the successful prosecution of Tolen.

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